

Keeney Chronicles



November 2015

a Message from the
Principal

Mrs. Martin-Beaulieu

Greetings Keeney Families,

During this month's newsletter you will read about our fifth grade and the exciting events and learning that are taking place at that grade level. Each month we will feature a grade level for our newsletter so that families can come to understand a little more deeply what happens at a particular grade level. Each family should be receiving a weekly newsletter as well from their child's teacher specific to that grade and classroom.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of our families for being such a positive part of our school community. Our work together is building a true home-school partnership which positively impacts all students. We are a school family at Keeney and I hear from many visitors that our school is a very welcoming place to be. That is in large part due to our families and your investment in building a positive place for all kids.

I hope everyone has a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday!

Keeney Street School PTA

Welcome Keeney Families!

Happy November everyone! Thank you to everyone that has joined the PTA and supported our fundraising efforts and family events! It is the time of year where we remember to be thankful for all of the people that have touched our lives. We wanted to thank the teachers and staff at Keeney for taking care of the most important thing to us, our children.

With the holidays right around the corner, we hope that you will find the time to join us at some of the amazing events that we have planned for our Keeney Cubs.

Please join us at our next meeting *Tuesday, December 1st from 6:30-7:30pm in the school cafeteria. Bring the kids!* We provide childcare with the Lutz Children's Museum during our meetings. Please check us out - you'll be glad you did!

Special Thanks to the following individuals:

- Mrs. Soloperto and Miss Seaha for coming to our PTA meeting on November 4th to talk to us about all of the amazing things that they are working on with our children in their STEM classes.
- Karen Carlson for putting on a spooktacular Trunk-or-Treat event. It was one of our best turn outs ever. Thank you to all of the families that decorated their cars and handed out treats to the children.
- Jesse Johnson and Niki Garcia for organizing our Fall Fundraiser with the Cristoline Company. Remember that your pies and soups will be available for pick up on Monday, November 16th from 3:30-5:30pm and Tuesday, November 17th from 8:00-9:00am in the cafeteria.
- Josie Robertson for coordinating our School Picture Day for us. The children all looked precious and it will show in their pictures!

NOVEMBER PTA FUNDRAISERS AND FAMILY EVENTS:

- Our Fall **Cristoline Fundraiser** – Pies, cookies and soups will be in before Thanksgiving. Please keep an eye out for fliers to let you know when and where to pick them up.
- Enjoy a delicious Italian meal at the Olive Garden Fundraiser on **Wednesday, November 18th** from 4-10pm. 15% of the proceeds will be donated to the Keeney PTA. You must bring a flier. For questions, please contact Amber Moriarty at amberbella199@yahoo.com.
- Picture Day Make-Up - **Thursday, November 19th**.
- Fall Mixer - **Friday, November 20th** from 6-8pm in the gym. Wear your Halloween costume one last time and come out for an evening of dancing, games and fun. Parents must accompany their child to the dance. \$3 donation to the PTA appreciated.
- Botticello Wreath Fundraiser - Fliers will be going home soon. It's time to deck those halls!
- Spirit Day - **Wednesday, November 25th**. It's Wacky Wednesday! Upside down and inside out, dress as wacky as you'd like. A suggested \$1 donation to your Keeney PTA is greatly appreciated!
- Half Day - **Wednesday, November 25th**. 1:17 Dismissal - Happy Thanksgiving!
- December PTA Meeting - **Tuesday, December 1st** at 6:30pm in the cafeteria. Bring the kids...The Lutz will be on hand with an educational program!
- Parent / Teacher Conferences - **Tuesday, December 1st** - Thursday, December 3rd - Half Days 1:17 dismissal.
- Parent's Night Out - **Friday, December 4th** from 6-9pm. Back by popular demand, time to drop your child off for an evening of fun while you enjoy dinner or do some holiday shopping.
- Great Lakes Scrip Company - Not sure what to get "that special someone" for the holidays? A gift card is just the thing. Why not support our school at the same time! Gift cards will be delivered before December 23rd. Order forms due back no later than **Wednesday, December 9th**.

- Holiday Shopping Extravaganza - **Friday, December 11th** the Keeney Cubs will be able to do all of their holiday shopping (and wrapping)! Our gym will be turned into a store and the children will be able to shop for their families. Please look for the flier that will be sent home. If you can be one of our elves for the day and lend a hand to children shopping, please join us.
- Spirit Day - **Wednesday, December 23rd** - Holiday Wear. Get out your ugliest holiday sweater, pretty dress, Grinch suit, or Santa hat. It's never too soon to dress up for the Holidays!!!
- Box Tops for Education. There is a collection bin in the hallway, right in front of the school office. Please send in your box tops and be sure they have not expired. Questions...email Connie Anglin at Connie@company23.com. Help us make a difference for the Keeney Cubs.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

- We are in need of volunteers to help sort and distribute our Cristoline pie and soup orders on Monday, November 16th from 3:30-5:30pm and Tuesday, November 17th from 8:00-9:00am. If you are able to help, please email Niki Garcia at gusandniki@yahoo.com.
- We need lots of volunteers to help us during our Holiday Shopping Event on Friday, December 11th. Parents, Grandparents and older siblings are welcome to come and play "elf" for the day while helping our cubs shop and wrap their gifts. The more the merrier!

**Come to our next meeting on
Tuesday, December 1st from 6:30-7:30pm
and find out how you too can get involved.
We look forward to meeting you all!**

Have a safe and restful holiday filled with lots of joy and happiness!

5th GRADE



Ms. Olesnevich Mrs. Gordon Mrs. Christensen

We have deemed all of our fifth graders "top dogs". Each student has their top dog photo featured somewhere in their classroom. They all think this is the coolest thing. This correlates nicely with the social thinking piece in that fifth graders know they are the role models for the rest of the students in the school and so they are to uphold high expectations.



The Social Thinking curriculum is underway. All of the fifth grade classes are at different places in the curriculum. Most importantly we are using the common language. Some of that language includes expected and unexpected. We encourage our students to use their Social Smarts and make good choices about the people around them. When students do what is expected at school and at home, they give

people good thoughts and good feelings, as with the unexpected the reverse happens. This curriculum also incorporates keeping our brain, body and eyes in the group to be successful. Being part of the group allows us to work together on a common goal.

We finally finalized our "Shelfie" bulletin board and this is hanging outside Mrs. Christensen's classroom. Students gathered books they have read that spoke to their heart and soul and created a bookshelf highlighting these books. We hope that children will add to their bookshelves throughout the course of the year.

Students have been working on improving writing. Some of the focus in writing has been on using good leads and using our words like artists use paint. We want students to *SHOW* and not tell about their written experiences. Another focus has been to incorporate useful dialogue into our work. Dialogue is used to help the reader get to know a character's feelings or to move the plot of the story along.

Fifth graders have just been assigned an explorer and will be doing reading and research around their individual. We have worked on identifying important information. If you have not heard already, ask your child what it means to "Keep it or junk it".

In math we are working on multiplication and division of multidigit numbers. Students are really beginning to understand why it is important to have mastery of basic facts as we move into the higher math skills.

We are also using the new enVisions math program as a resource to support the math instruction. This program has a wonderful online component and kids can view this online from both school and home. www.pearsonrealize.com.

SAD

There she sat,
all alone,
her head hanging low.
Her face was red,
and her eyes shed a single tear.
It was like all the things around her
had simply disappeared.
Her lip quivered, and the
taste of sweet happiness
was washed away from
her.

GLOOMY

Cheryl Everett
October 2015



DISCOVERY camp



In late October, 5th grade students at Keeney School took their learning into the woods. For three days and two nights, students attended The Discovery Center at Camp Woodstock in Woodstock, CT. Alongside fellow students from Washington School they discussed diversity, made new friends while engaging in team building activities and were encouraged to "be the change they wish to see in the world!" 5th grade teachers at both Keeney and Washington hope to fuel the connections and friendships made amongst students, while at Discovery Camp, through on-going dialogue and additional outings together between now and June.



DISCOVERY camp





Fifth Grade Keeney Street School Leadership Team



Several of our fifth grade students just went through a life-changing experience. We are very proud of how many stepped up and applied for our Fifth Grade Keeney Street School Leadership Team. These children were asked to fill out an application, get recommendations from Keeney staff members, and participate in an interview with fifth grade teachers. We are proud to announce that each and every student who applied and interviewed has been accepted to the team! We would like to extend our congratulations to Cheryl Everett, Mary Buckland, Simran Waseem, Chelsea Vazquez, Juan Solis, Ella Robertson, Dylan McKenna, Kayla Berube, Sage Lerario, Mackenzie Hall, Macy Ryerson, Sophie Baumel, Grace Buckland, Kenny Carlson, Jaden Patrick, and Jeremy Zilora. These students have been broken into three small committees and have shared some thoughtful plans to help make our school and community a better place!



STEM

MS. seaHa

Our Fifth Grade Keeney Cubs have been hard at work in STEM (Science. Technology. Engineering. Mathematics) over the past couple of months! We are currently wrapping up our unit on the Earth, Moon, and Sun. We have been busy exploring the movement of the Earth in relationship to the Sun and the reasons why we have day and night, as well as the different seasons. Ask your fifth grader all about rotation and revolution! Mrs. Jalbert will be joining us as we dive into our study of the phases of the moon next. She will assist in bringing the "Technology" component of STEM into our classrooms. We are looking forward to beginning our study on "Sound" after the holiday!



This fall seemed to start slowly, but now it is really gaining momentum. I can't believe Thanksgiving and Christmas are almost here! Kindergarten through fifth grade started the school year with a drawing unit. Currently Kindergarteners are learning to draw fish both for a poster about Long Island Sound and for the upcoming Neighborhood and Families art exhibit in May. First, second, and third graders are drawing and completing posters about Long Island Sound. Most of them will paint their poster. Some used crayon or oil pastel first and are experiencing the beautiful effects of crayon resist! Fourth graders are completing fire prevention posters for the annual statewide fire prevention poster contest. Fifth graders learned about the artist MC Escher and are completing a colorful tessellation drawing.

All classes are working on the PTA Reflections Program. The theme this year is "Let Your Imagination Fly". As a springboard to get students started on this idea, I suggested students create a funny animal. This animal is either a complete figment of a student's imagination or may be a combination of two or more animals to create a new animal. I referred to Theodore Geissel's (Dr. Suess) book illustrations to see his unique creatures. Some students are choosing to do something different other than a new kind of animal. Other ideas are embraced and encouraged. I am providing students with watercolor paper to begin these fanciful drawings and will later encourage them to paint.

Because we are becoming increasingly involved with paint and other "messy" art supplies, I strongly suggest children bring an over-sized paint shirt or smock to school to bring to art class. This could simply be a hand-me-down adult shirt that is no longer needed and is OK to get stained.

I am attaching a copy of the art units of study to this newsletter so you will have a basic idea of what your child will be learning about in art, in what grade, and during what part of the school year.

I have debated back and forth with myself about whether or not to have parents sign a permission slip allowing artwork to be displayed outside of the building. It becomes a lot of filing and sometimes trying to match parents' last names with children. Often when I submit artwork to a contest like Reflections or Neighborhoods and Families, the organization has its own permission forms and then I end up having parents sign a second form.



This year, I will try this:

I will send all fourth grade fire prevention posters to the main Fire Department on Center Street before December 1. The posters will not be displayed unless there is a winner. If your child has a winning poster, you will be notified as the poster will then move to county. Otherwise all posters should be returned to Keeney by the end of January. Unless we have a town-wide poster winner, no posters will be displayed except maybe at Keeney. Everything that is displayed on the Keeney walls has a first name only and the grade level.

Places outside Keeney Street School could include:

- Central Office bulletin boards (Only first name displayed)
- Keeney's website (Only first name displayed)
- The Pediatric Dental Office (Only first name displayed) (Currently we are not displaying at the dental office)
- Reflections (I will choose projects from various grade levels and request a detailed permission slip for a detailed label)
- The Youth Services Bureau (I will choose projects from various grade levels and request a detailed permission slip for a detailed label) The Lutz Museum (Only first name displayed)
- Save the Sound (I will choose projects from various grade levels and request a detailed permission slip for a detailed label)

In all cases, I will inform you if your child's work is going on display outside of Keeney.

My request to you is that if you **DO NOT** want your child's artwork displayed outside of Keeney Street School, please send me an email to that effect at b21sgarr@mpspride.com.

~Mrs. Punty



Ms. Haveles



Winter Concert:

Our young musicians are currently preparing for our Winter Concert on **Thursday, December 17, 2015**. The Fifth Grade Band, Fifth Grade Orchestra, and Fifth Grade Chorus will perform in two concerts - the first concert will be at 2:15pm for Keeney students and staff and the second concert will be at **7:00pm for parents and families**. Both concerts will be held in the **Keeney Street School Gymnasium**. Please note that all students in fifth grade participate in chorus as part of their music education. A permission slip was sent home on Monday, November 16, 2015 and a reminder slip will be sent home after Thanksgiving.

Hartford Wolf Pack Hockey Game:



All students are welcome to sing at the Hartford Wolf Pack Hockey game at the XL Center on **Sunday, February 28, 2016 at 3:00 p.m.**

This event is organized through the PTA and more information will be sent home after Thanksgiving. During music class students will be learning the song for this performance. Please mark your calendars and join us for this fun family event so we can have a large group of performers as we have had in the past. We are looking forward to performing as a Keeney community again for the Hartford Wolf Pack!



Ms. Elizabeth Swan

Research shows that reading volume is a strong indicator of reading achievement. Building reading stamina in Grades K-5 is a focus this year. It's important to foster a love for reading and that can be done through exposure to lots of "just right" books. The easiest way to help at home is to just encourage your child to keep reading!

Below is an overview of the Reading Workshop model that is being used throughout the district.

READING WORKSHOP MODEL

COMPONENT and TIME	WHAT IS IT?	WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?
Mini-Lesson (10-15 mins.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -One teaching point -Based on strategies -Opportunity for teaching or exploration of new strategies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Connection -Teaching -Try -Link
Guided Reading Strategy Groups (30-45 mins.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Focus on effective strategies for processing texts at increasing levels of difficulty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Guided reading groups are homogeneous; use instructional level text and one teaching point is presented -Strategy groups are heterogeneous and formed according to instructional needs with a specific strategy
Independent Practice with Conferring (30-45 mins.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Students are reading and practicing strategies modeled during instructions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Students practice strategies modeled during mini-lessons, guided reading, strategy groups, shared reading and read alouds -Read text at independent levels -Teacher confers with students 1:1. in partnerships, or groups to monitor progress and provide feedback
<p align="center">Groups and Independent Practice happen simultaneously (30-45 mins.)</p>		
Closure / Share (10 mins.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Summarize big ideas and take aways 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Meet as a community to share work

WE MATH

Ms. Lesley Sherman

In 5th grade math, students are learning about place value. The value of a digit depends on its place, or position in the number. Each place has a value of 10 times the place to its right and $\frac{1}{10}$ the value it would have in the place to the left. For example, in the number 105,558, the value of the 5 in the hundreds place is $\frac{1}{10}$ the value of the 5 in the thousands place. It is 10 times the value of the 5 in the tens place. Students are also learning to use whole-number exponents to write powers of 10. Below is an activity you can do with your child.

Place the Digit

Materials:

Number cards 0-9

paper

pencil

Step 1: Mix and place the cards face down. Your child picks the top card while you name a place from ones to millions.

Step 2: Have your child write a number that includes the digit on the card in the place you named. Alternate roles and repeat until all cards have been used. You can increase the difficulty of the game by including the digit on the card in two or more places in a single number.

Our next unit of study is fractions.



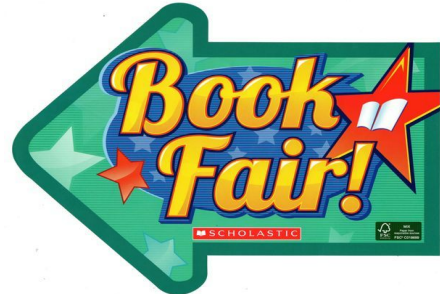
Ms. Jen Jalbert

Scholastic Book Fair in the ***School Library***

December 1 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

December 2 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

December 3 9:00 am - 1:00 pm



All sales benefit the School Library.



The 5th grade have been using their chromebooks with the Explorers Unit. They used Google Slides to present information on Explorers and the All About Explorers website to read and think critically about evaluating websites.



Thank you to the 5th graders who have worked as bus callers at dismissal time. It is a big responsibility and every single student so far has done a great job. Students work as bus callers for a whole week. After their week, they are sometimes called to substitute. So far this year, the following students have had a chance. Thank you to Jack Nieradko, Juan Solis, Mackenzie Hall, Brady Adams, Damilare Akinsola, Nina Montague, Ella Robertson, Macy Ryerson, Jeremy Zilora, Samuel Collins and Kayla Berube. There are many more fifth graders signed up to help and everyone will get a chance eventually.



DISMISSAL on:

**WEDNESDAY
NOVEMBER 25**

WILL BE at: **1:17 PM**



HAPPY THANKSGIVING